

In the Claims

1. (Currently amended) A gaming system, comprising:
a hostless communications link;
at least ~~two~~ three gaming components, each gaming component comprising:
a controller; and
a communications interface; and
a connector for connecting each interface to the communications link,
a the hostless communications link to allowing the each controllers of the gaming components to communicate with each of the other controllers of other gaming components on a peer-to-peer basis without a master controller to control communications through the communications interfaces.
2. (Original) The gaming system of claim 1, wherein one of the at least two gaming components comprises a game processing unit.
3. (Currently amended) The gaming system of claim 2, wherein said at least ~~two~~ three gaming components comprises ~~two~~ three gaming components operable to communicate directly with one another without being processed or transmitted by the game processing unit.
4. (Currently amended) The gaming system of claim 1, wherein said at least ~~two~~ three gaming components are selected from the group comprised of: a game processing unit, a camera, a printer, a storage device, a coin hopper, a light display, button panels, a ticket reader, a bill validator, a speaker, a microphone, a card reader, a biometric device, and a keypad.
5. (Previously presented) The gaming system of claim 1, wherein the link to allow communications between the other components without any interaction of a game processing unit.

6. (Previously presented) The gaming system of claim 2, wherein the link to allow communications between the other components without any interaction of the game processing unit.
7. (Currently amended) The gaming system of claim 1, the gaming system further comprising a second hostless communications link, wherein one of either the hostless communications link or the second hostless communications link is used by the gaming components arranged in a cabinet and the other of the links is used for communications between each of the gaming components arranged in the cabinet and components located outside of the cabinet.
8. (Currently amended) The gaming system of claim 1, the hostless communications link further to allow the gaming components to be added and removed while power is on.
9. (Currently amended) The gaming system of claim 1, the hostless communications link further to provide power to at least one gaming component.
10. (Currently amended) The gaming system of claim 1, the hostless communications link further comprising a link compliant with IEEE 1394.
11. (Currently amended) A gaming system, comprising:
 - at least ~~two~~ three gaming components, at least two being arranged in a cabinet and at least one being located outside the cabinet, each gaming component comprising:
 - a controller; and
 - a communications interface;
 - ~~at least one gaming component located outside the cabinet;~~
 - an interior hostless communications link to allow each of the controllers in the gaming components arranged in the cabinet to communicate with each of the other components arranged in the cabinet in a peer-to-peer fashion without a host;

an exterior hostless communications link to allow each of the controllers in the gaming components arranged in the cabinet to communicate with the controller of the gaming component located outside the cabinet in a peer-to-peer fashion without a host; and

a bridge to provide connection between the interior hostless communications link and the exterior hostless communications link.

12. (Previously presented) The gaming system of claim 11, wherein one of said at least two gaming components arranged in the cabinet comprises a game processing unit.

13. (Currently amended) The gaming system of claim 12, wherein said at least two gaming components arranged in the cabinet comprises at least two gaming components operable to communicate directly with one another without being processed or transmitted by the game processing unit.

14. (Currently amended) The gaming system of claim 11, wherein the interior hostless communications link comprises an IEEE 1394 backplane communications bus.

15. (Currently amended) The gaming system of claim 11, wherein the exterior hostless communications link further comprises an IEEE 1394 cabled communications bus.

16. (Currently amended) The gaming system of claim 11, the exterior hostless communications link further to provide power to at least one gaming component remote from the cabinet.

17. (New) The gaming system of claim 11, the gaming component outside the cabinet comprising a card reader.

18. (New) The gaming system of claim 11, the gaming component outside the cabinet comprising a video light panel.

19. (New) The gaming system of claim 11, the gaming component outside the cabinet comprising a video camera.

20. (New) The gaming system of claim 11, the gaming component outside the cabinet comprising external data storage.